

CC 96-45

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APR 11 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C., 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

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We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Meadowbrook Elementary
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Beatrice Schofield

Shula Steiner

Julie Eckman

Susan Mills

Nancy Frazier

Lot Vandegraft

Charles E. Power, Jr.

Diane M. Richardson

John M. Handerus

Joan Turner

Carol Melstrom

Linda Gunnaman

Christine L. McCullough

Cameron L. Halversen

Colene Jones

Rebecca Dible

Becky Wheeler

Merikay Haskins

Susan Patterson

Twana Schibinsky

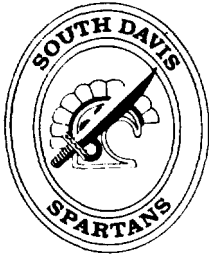
Sherry P. Allen

Lloyd L. Hogan

Barbara Mansfield

Sandy Inman

Charles E. Power, Jr.



South Davis Junior High School

298 West 2600 South
Bountiful, Utah 84010
Phone 299-2050
Fax 299-2677

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

96-45

Karyn Bertelsen
Principal
Larry D. Smith
Assistant Principal

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C., 20054

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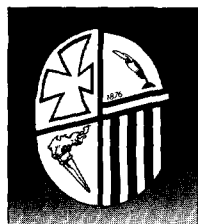
Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

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A Heritage of Excellence

Mount de Sales Academy

Middle School Grades 7-8 • High School Grades 9-12



April 8, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 11 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the principal at Mount de Sales Academy in Macon, Georgia and would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly into the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to this process. This plan is also essential in preparing our students for Workforce 2000.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services to schools.

Sincerely,

Terrence G. Mermann
Principal

TGM:jmc

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SANDUSKY

St Mary

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CENTRAL CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

410 W. JEFFERSON STREET
SANDUSKY, OHIO 44870
(419) 626-1892

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APR 11 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 7, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

CC: Docket N. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I strongly concur with Sister Berneta's letter. Technology has to be a big part of our present strategic planning. It is so frustrating to have educational dreams hindered by financial considerations. America is the great land where we can dream dreams for the welfare of our children. Yet so often it seems that the children are made to suffer in the decisions made by government. Let's not perpetuate this dilemma.

I also ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide service to schools and libraries at significantly reduced rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every learner in America.

Sincerely,

Gary Kelley
Gary Kelley, Principal

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York School District Number One

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

P.O. Drawer 770
18 Spruce Street
York, South Carolina 29745
Phone 803/684-9916
Fax 803/684-1903

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APR 11 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

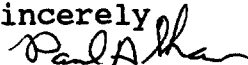
As York School District Number One Superintendent, thank you for your dedication to ensure that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board's decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all of our schools, and most importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our school district is moving slowly toward upgrading our equipment and providing our students with the necessary technology to prepare them for the future. This funding from the federal government will greatly assist our schools in obtaining the necessary equipment and infrastructure.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Paul A. Shaw
Superintendent

nm

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PENNSSTATE



Jorge Reina Schement
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and
Research/Professional Development
College of Communications

(814) 865-3070
Fax: (814) 863-8044
E-mail: JRS18@PSU.EDU

The Pennsylvania State University
201 Carnegie Building
University Park, PA 16802-5101

April 7, 1997

MAIL ROOM

APR 11 1997

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to report a teleconference regarding questions of universal service, held on 14 January 1997 with the following participants:

- Terry Monroe (txm@dps.state.ny.us), telecommunications policy analyst, NY Public Service Commission, and member of state staff, universal service joint board.
- Michael McRae (nasuca@nasuca.org (specify for Mike McRae)), attorney, DC Office of the People's Counsel, and member of state staff, universal service joint board.
- Lori Wright (lwright@fcc.gov), attorney in the Universal Service Branch, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC, and member of federal staff, universal service joint board.
- Chuck Keller (ckeller@fcc.gov), attorney in the Universal Service Branch, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC, and member of federal staff, universal service joint board.

The following questions were posed to me. Following is a synopsis of our discussion.

1. Why is subscribership low among low-income households? The cost of access is not the main reason for low subscribership levels for low-income households. Thus, subsidizing access may not be as helpful as other approaches. Rather people seem to be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges and for other dynamic factors.

Studies show that income-levels are an important factor affecting subscribership, but not the most important. Other relevant factors are circumstances surrounding the lives of low-income people, e.g., mobility, collect calls made and accepted by low-income households, and, after being cut off, "borrowing" neighbors' phones to make toll calls, which results in that person then being cut off. When this happens, we end up with significant portions of entire communities being cut off.

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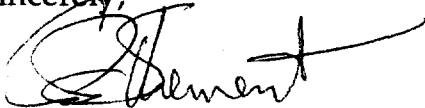
The phenomenon of "churn" affects a large part of the low-income population. Churn occurs when people move on and off the network. Studies suggest that over 1/2 of people who now have telephone service did not have it at some point in the recent past, and vice-versa.

2. What would help increase subscribership? Studies suggest that no disconnect for non-payment of toll helps increase subscribership. Automatic enrollment helps increase low-income subscribership, especially for people whose first language is not English. Increasing federal support from \$3.50 to \$5.25 might not affect overall penetration rates. Also, by increasing the federal support amount, states that already have Lifeline might decrease their matching amount.

Because many of the reasons low-income people have low subscribership are community-specific, an approach centered in the states and communities will probably be most helpful. At the federal level, the FCC should look very closely at toll issues, acknowledge the dynamic nature of subscribership in low-income communities, and recommend and support local initiatives.

Thank you for your acknowledgment of this communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Schement", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jorge Reina Schement
Associate Dean



City of New Bedford

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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MAYOR
ROSEMARY S. TIERNEY

133 William Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740
508-979-1410
Fax: 508-991-6189

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APR 11 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC DOCKET No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

As Mayor, I am the New Bedford Massachusetts School Committee's ex-officio board member.

At this time I would like to thank your for your untiring dedication to make sure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Highway. The new Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint board discount plan will definitely guarantee that the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide them with distance-learning opportunities.

The \$2.25 billion allocated will certainly provide the plan which will bring direct services to all classrooms where our students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is **vital** and I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Rosemary S. Tierney
Mayor

RST/jmm

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CC 96-45

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4602 Harbinger
Mesquite, TX 75150

March 27, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to express my disappointment with the rating system recently implemented by the television industry. These ratings are not content-based and, therefore, do not provide enough of an indication as to what viewers will see in the programs. Rating by age is not enough; parents need to know if the programs contain inappropriate levels of violence, sexual content, or language for the age and maturity of their children.

The need for content-based ratings applies not only to situations where children will be unsupervised in their television watching and parents need to know how to set limits. Content-based ratings are also necessary for situations where parents and children are viewing programs together. It is very disturbing to sit down as a family to watch a television program only to be surprised by inappropriate content.

The F.C.C. needs to support a content-based rating system.

Sincerely,

Lynette Williams
Lynette Williams

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Jim Lambert, Superintendent Debbie Howie, Clerk
Stephen Burkholder, Asst. Supt. Linda Vincent, Treasurer

1101 North Mulberry Street, Box 639
Abilene, Kansas 67410
Phone: (913) 263-2630
Fax: (913) 263-7610
E-mail: EdCenter@access-one.com

April 7, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 844
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 11 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As superintendent of Abilene Kansas USD 435, I want to express my appreciation for your efforts in working for affordable student access to the unlimited learning opportunities offered by the latest technological advances in telecommunications. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will enable our students to learn effectively through classroom experiences enhanced by the classroom connections.

At this time, we have only been able to provide access to our high school students. We do not have the budget capacity to connect our middle and upper elementary schools, so those students are not able to utilize a resource that many other districts are providing.

The discounts for telecommunications services will help our students gain the access they need to get ready for their adult world. I believe that the FCC should fully support the Joint Board's discount plan and help school districts fulfill their responsibilities to their students.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Lambert".
Jim Lambert

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An Equal Opportunity Employer

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Community Consolidated School District 15



Joseph M. Kiszka Educational Service Center
580 North First Bank Drive
Palatine, Illinois 60067-8108
(847) 934-2770

John G. Conyers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Jane Addams • Central Road
Kimball Hill • Hunting Ridge • Thomas Jefferson
Marion Jordan • Lake Louise • Lincoln
Stuart R. Paddock • Pleasant Hill • Gray M. Sanborn
Virginia Lake • Frank C. Whiteley • Willow Bend
Plum Grove Junior High • Carl Sandburg Junior High
Walter R. Sundling Junior High • Winston Campus

April 7, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington DC 20554

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APR 11 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

On behalf of the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 15, our superintendent, teachers, and students, I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the Internet.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide students distance-learning opportunities. Certainly, the \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all schools and bring services directly to the classroom. Today's students are the work force of tomorrow—that is why this plan and your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is so vital.

Deep discounts for telecommunications services are needed this year. With these savings, School District 15 will be able to purchase additional computers, software, and printers.

We urge the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. I know the students, parents, and teachers of School District 15 are very appreciative for your efforts to support this plan.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Murtaugh
President
Board of Education

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ST. MARGARET MARY SCHOOL
7318 N. OAKLEY AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60645



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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054
CC. Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November. In particular, I support the recommendations made by Ed Li NC, a Washington-based coalition of educational and library organizations.

The Recommended Rules ensure that all children, whether in public or non-public schools, would have access to on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in our modern society.

St. Margaret Mary School is currently working to set up a computer lab with the latest computers and hardware. We are attempting to put some computers in each of the classrooms in order to integrate the curriculum. We are trying to move into the "Information Age" but the major obstacle we face is the high cost.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Marie P. Noel

Marie P. Noel
Principal

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SANDUSKY

St Mary

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CENTRAL CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

410 W. JEFFERSON STREET
SANDUSKY, OHIO 44870
(419) 626-1892

April 7, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket N. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

St. Mary Central Catholic High School is in great need of finances for technology. Without discounts on internal wiring and affordable Internet access, these services can't be provided for our 310 college-bound students.

I am sure that you are well aware that Catholic schools are excluded from most local and state funded initiatives for the purchases of technology hardware. Even our U. S. senator stated that although the Catholic schools offer invaluable service to the United States, he cannot support federal aid to non-public schools. A little percentage of support would be nothing compared to closing our schools and having the public schools take on all the students we serve.

National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to the computer and connectivity is at least fifty percent behind that of the public schools. Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms.

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SMCC has an ambitious technology plan in place, one that is coordinated with our three other Catholic schools in Sandusky, and supported by our local college campus. We want to bring total educational and technological advances to all our families from pre-school through college. In 2002 we will be celebrating our hundredth anniversary. In 2002 we want to boast of the best from traditional Christian values through academic excellence to the cutting-edge of technological learning. Help us achieve our goal!

Therefore, I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life-long learner in America.

God bless you with joy and peace!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Mary Berneta".

Sr. M. Berneta Schneider, SND
Associate Principal

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CC96-48

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APR 11 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C., 20054

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